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NOTICE

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the Central Police Station between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 3 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily. Applicants will be required to produce Passports or Identification papers. All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to register themselves under the REGISTRATION or PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916. Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations. The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

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ENGLAND IN THE WAR.
WHAT THE LANCASHIRE SOLDIERS
HAVE DONE.

[BY LIEUT. VICTOR MACCURE.]

There are few men of the New Army of Britain with a more sturdy spirit than those of the Lancashire Regiments, and there are none that have fought better or had a bigger share of the hardships of war. A visit to their trenches and camps in France shows one that these men, who three years ago, and in some cases much more recently, were mill operatives or clerks, have become hardened soldiers, ready for anything that the fighting line can ask, and that they are capable of fighting and enduring under the gravest of circumstances. Nothing seems to rob them of their cheeriness; they make light of all hardships, and carry on always in the same imperturbable, dogged, but cheerful way.

A Regular officer in command of one battalion—he came from a crack cavalry regiment—had nothing but praise for these new soldiers of his, and for their officers. The officers were mostly business men from manufacturing firms in the Lancashire towns and cities, and their battalions found them of the same good stuff as the men. For his adjutant, who could handle figures with a skill he thought amazing, he had the greatest admiration. Old soldier that the Colonel was, accustomed before the war to discipline, etiquette and military precision, he was tickled by the direct methods of speech among his men, and he gladly admitted that they "could do their job." His only difficulty was to keep them back from the fighting when it was not their turn.

It is difficult to get the men to talk of their exploits. They will rather talk of their home towns and the streets and places in them than they will of Arras, the Somme or the Ancre. There are men among them, a high proportion, who wear the ribbon and button of a twice won Military Medal, but it is almost impossible to draw from them any story of how the decoration was gained. It is only from stray scraps of talk that any particular story can be pieced together.

The chance to add to the battalion laurels by sharing in an offensive is very much a matter of luck, and there are no regiments which can boast very little in the way of share in advancing, but which have records not less heroic, of long spells in the trenches. For instance, a battalion of the King's Own went to France very early in 1916, went into the trenches of the Loos, salient, within seven days of landing, and never went further back from them than the Brigade reserve until late in October of that year. The battalion saw trench warfare at its worst, for our artillery superiority over the Boche had not then been established. From the Loos area they went down to the Somme and had perhaps a more terrible experience. It is not generally comprehended that the winter of 1916-1917 on the Somme was as bad as any, despite all arrangements for the comfort of the men. The line was simply a series of shell-craters linked up, and the mud and cold and general discomforts were exceedingly trying. Yet these Liverpool men cheerily stood their turn of it after ten months round Loos, and were able to boast that they had only fifteen cases of trench foot, which says a great deal for the discipline of the battalion, as any soldier will agree.

Four Liverpool Territorial Battalions, now brigaded at the Front, kept back at home for a considerable time and acted as draft-producing battalions for the first line. One battalion passed 120 officers to service battalions, another passed 100, and altogether the Brigade, while at home, passed out over 400 officers and 2,000 men, with a machine-gun company as a make-weight. It may be said in justice, therefore, that the war experience of the Brigade started long before it went to the front as a complete unit. But though it came out late the Brigade has already passed through one very trying experience. It was holding a sector where the enemy imagined some development was coming, and the narrow front had to endure an intense bombardment from every kind of artillery from 15 inch down to "Minnies." In one day 50,000 shells were poured upon this Liverpool Brigade, and a certain proportion were gas shells. The Liverpool established a reputation for "sticking it" and for remaining cheerful even at the worst moment.

This same Brigade has considerable experience of raiding. It has raided the German lines times without number, and has an effective way of dealing with counter-raids. The story is told of one Lewis gunner who, during a raid, kept his gun firing until a German party worked round him. A German officer and three men, all armed with bombs, worked along the trench until they came upon him, sitting with his Lewis gun upon his knee. "Give us your gun, or we bomb," shouted the officer. "The Hell you will!" said the gunner, and he looked off and wiped out the party.

Another group of Lancashire Territorials declares that it is master of No-Man's Land. It keeps patrols lying out near the Boche line and promenade up and down the front in the most amazing way. Its speciality is daylight raiding, and it keeps the Germans unpleasantly busy most of the time. It, too, has had the severe ordeal of intense bombardment, and it was among the first to experience "mustard" gas.

The five battalions raised in Manchester have done splendidly, and, when one sees the cheerfulness and humanity of the men, it is difficult to realise the great deeds they have done at heavy cost. All of these battalions were in France at the beginning of 1916 and one at least was out in 1915. One of them after six months of holding the line, varied by occasional raiding, came into a full share of the events of the Somme in July of 1916. It lost 30 out of 21 officers, killed or wounded, on the first day of the engagement.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

THE PRESS AND THE
COMMONWEALTH.ABOLITION OF THE CENSORSHIP
TO BE DEMANDED WHEN
THE WAR ENDS.

Acknowledging a presentation made to him by brother journalists at the Savoy Hotel, London, recently, Sir Edmund Robbins, K.B.E., who recently resigned his position as manager of the Press Association after nearly fifty years' service, said great changes had taken place during the last half-century, but there had been no weakening of the spirit of independence or of the exercise of criticism, as compared with the position taken up by the pioneers of a free British Press. It was unfortunate that under the stress of a great war the Press had been called upon to submit to a censorship. His experience was that a censorship was necessary, and it was only by a recognition by both the Government and the representatives of the Press of the grave issues at stake that the difficulties inherent to the present situation could be arranged satisfactorily. As soon as possible after the war was over the Press would demand the abolition of the censorship. The Press had proved itself a great national asset in the part it had played by assisting to raise the enormous War Loan, since hostilities commenced. This view, he had little doubt, would commend itself to the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sir Edmund added that there had been handed to him a cheque which represented the balance of subscriptions to the gifts which had been presented. He did not know what was the amount of the cheque, but whatever it was he proposed to divide it equally between the Newspaper Press Fund and the Orphan Fund of the Institute of Journalists. (Cheers.)

Lord Burnham said that during the past three years it had been recognised more than ever before that the Press was one of the main supports of the Commonwealth. They would never go back, he believed, to the time when any Government or statesman could afford to ignore the Press. The Press would not easily surrender the tremendous and formidable power it was growing day by day, which it had exercised on the fortunes of the Empire. Powerful as it was before the war, it was far more powerful now.

A giant of the Manchester police won the Military Cross that day for taking command, practically, of the shattered battalion. At Ghinchy, in September, 1916, this same battalion was again under heavy fire and lost in casualties 130 men in five days.

Another battalion which has a very high military record, counts its entrance into Serre as a red-letter day. Coming under bombardment a few days after its arrival in Mindan Post trenches, it fought superbly at Mametz, Bazentin-le-Grand, High Wood, Ghinchy, Munich Trench, Croisilles and Bullecourt, and it was the patrols of this battalion who first ascertained, by pushing on, that the enemy had retreated from Serre, thus raising a hue and cry that spread over 100 miles of front.

Yet another battalion, composed mainly of mill-operatives from Oldham, by winning a reputation for trench-digging, became the pioneer battalion of its division. It helped to make a railway for the Somme push and most often worked under fire. Two companies went up to consolidate in a village and arrived, as the Boche counter-attacked. The men put down tools and helped the infantry. After four hours' fighting in which the enemy was soundly beaten the two companies came out, having gained one Military Cross, a D.C.M., and four Military Medals.

A North Lancashire battalion recruited largely in Lancaster, Burnley and Blackpool, formed part of that Brigade which had the honour of selection for breaking the hinge of the German line in front of Arras. This is a much decorated battalion which fights hard and plays hard. It won honour on the Somme and regularly carries off a goodly proportion of the prizes at Divisional sports. The genuine little Bantams of this Regiment are a source of perpetual joy to their Colonel, both for their ability as soldiers and their excellence in the Divisional games.

A lot of men go to make up these Lancashire battalions, men from every walk of life. There are men of all the religions found in England serving in their ranks. There are men skilled in the use of their hands and men who are more skilled in the use of their brains. The regimental bands are fostered by men who have highly educated taste in classical music, and the Ladde of one Division will show a cross of wood in his chapel, smooth, beautifully proportioned as a cross should be. That was made by the men of the Pioneer battalion and presented to the little church as a gift. Fierce fighters while the fighting is going, these men exhibit the finest chivalry when the work is done and in the heat of battle. A beautiful side of their nature is the kindness they show to the animals in their charge, or to those they pick up and they are inveterate collectors of stray birds and animals.

It is not fair to tell of the honours gained by these Lancashire battalions separately, for to some have come better opportunities than to others. In any case the records are incomplete. But it may be said that they compare favourably with the battalions from any country in Britain, or with any men from any overseas branch of the British Empire.

Yet it is not alone in France that the men of Lancashire are distinguishing themselves. On any of the fronts on which the soldiers of the County regiments are fighting, one will find men from all sides of the wide county of Lancashire, in Macedonia, in Palestine, in Mesopotamia. In fact, wherever the Commonwealth of Britain needs men, there will be found the Lancashire men fighting cleanly and cheerfully taking up his full share.

WORLD'S RICE TRADE.
INTERESTING STATISTICS.

The current number of the Bulletin of the Imperial Institute contains an article of 70 pages on the production and uses of rice. Practically all the rice-producing countries of the world are considered separately, in respect both of their rice crops and of their trade in rice, and an attempt is made to arrive at some idea of the world's production of this important foodstuff. It is calculated that the output of cleaned rice in 1916-17, in all countries except China, amounted to about 60,000,000 tons. Of this the British Empire produced about 36,000,000 tons, mostly in India, where the crop (including an allowance of a million tons for Native States) was no less than 35,000,000 tons. Of the foreign production of 24,000,000 tons, over 20,000,000 tons was grown in five countries—Japan, Netherlands East Indies (chiefly Java), French Indo-China, Siam and Korea. Estimates of production in China are largely guess-work, but the Imperial Institute adopting the view that the output in China is not likely to be much inferior to the Indian crop and may exceed it, concludes that 40 per cent, or a little less, would be a fair allowance for India's proportion of the world's annual production of rice.

No less important is the position which India occupies in the world's rice trade as a source of supply for other countries. That is not a necessary consequence of its importance as a rice producer. Some of the countries of largest production—China, Japan, Netherlands East Indies—do not grow enough to supply their own needs, though in the case of Japan the large increase in the rice crops in the last three years has changed a heavy import balance into an export balance, so far as the trade with foreign countries (i.e., excluding Korea and Formosa) is concerned.

EXPORTING COUNTRIES. The world's export trade in rice is practically under the control of three countries, India, French Indo-China, and Siam. It has been calculated that the quantity of rice which entered into international trade, as shown by the export returns of different countries, amounted in 1913 to about 6,400,000 tons. This includes exports from European countries of rice which has been milled in those countries, which came originally from India, Siam, or Indo-China, and which unduly swells the total by being counted twice over. Even so, the original exports of rice from India amounted to 40 per cent of the total, while those from Indo-China were 20 per cent, and those from Siam 18 per cent; in other words, these three countries provided nearly four-fifths of the total.

India's export-trade in rice is really dependent on Burma. Not only does Burma provide about three-fourths of the exports of rice from India as a whole (1,336,000 tons out of 2,430,000 tons in 1913-14), but Burma usually sends to other provinces of India more rice than those other provinces export. Without Burma, India would not be self-supporting in rice. As it is, India's exports of rice in the year before the war were equal to the gross requirements of the rest of the Empire, though actually only 42.6 per cent of the exports went to British countries, and 57.4 per cent to foreign countries.

The exports direct to the United Kingdom were only between 6 and 7 per cent of the total. On the other hand, the United Kingdom imported considerable quantities of rice from Holland and Germany which had been first exported from India to those countries, and after being milled and polished there had been re-exported to the United Kingdom.

RICE MILLING. Rice-milling, at one time a flourishing industry in the United Kingdom, had declined before the war owing to growing competition from the Dutch and German mills, with the result that not only was the British home market partly supplied by foreign milled rice, but what was at one time the considerable British export trade in fully-milled rice had been reduced in many directions. Since the war both the home and export trade in milled rice have been largely recovered by the British rice-millers, and it is hoped that this industry and trade may be retained after the war. The possibilities of the development of the complete milling of rice in India before export are also a matter for consideration.

The second part of the article deals with the uses of rice both as an article of food and for industrial purposes; the value of rice meal as a feeding stuff for livestock is also discussed. The milling processes are described, and the different grades of rice and the by-products which are obtained are shown in diagrammatic form. Numerous composition tables are given, and comparisons are afforded in this respect between rice and its by-products and other foodstuffs.

In connection with this subject it may be pointed out that the Indian Committee of the Imperial Institute is now conducting, at the request of the Secretary of State for India, an enquiry into the possibility of increasing the use of Indian raw materials and foodstuffs within the Empire. The enquiry naturally involves an investigation of the extent to which other countries, and especially enemy countries before the war, had secured a predominant share in Indian trade, and the queries which led to this condition.

A Special Committee has investigated the trade in rice, and it is understood has now almost completed its work. The need for such an enquiry is clear from the facts mentioned above regarding the dominant position taken in the rice trade by Germany and Holland, before the war, as compared with the United Kingdom.

TRADE MARKS IN THE
ORIENT.

A WARNING TO FOREIGNERS.

The trademark laws of most foreign countries, especially of Japan and China, differ materially from those of the United States. In Japan, trademark rights are acquired by registration and not by priority of use. Not only is an American exporter who has omitted the formality of registration without trademark rights in Japan, but, what is even more important, other persons may acquire property rights in his marks by the simple expedient of forestalling him in registration. Every American who is exporting goods or who expects to export goods to Japan should accordingly make certain that his trademark is properly entered on the Japanese trademark records, and that his rights, once acquired, are maintained.

In China there are no material laws for the registration of trademarks. It is the custom for exporters to register their marks at their own consulates, and this often leads to more than the ordinary extraterritorial confusions. In practically every case a foreign infringer of a trademark in China insists that the question be adjudicated under the laws and by the consular courts of his own country. When the owner of the mark and the infringer are of the same nationality, there is no difficulty; and even when the infringer is a Chinese, it is possible for the owner to prevent violation of his rights. The difficulty arises in cases where owner and infringer are citizens or subjects of different nationalities, and this is aggravated when the infringer is of a nation, such as Japan, in which no property rights in trade marks are recognized prior to registration.

While in Japan property rights in trademarks are acquired by registration, in the United States these rights are obtained by use of the mark in trade. If Japan and the other countries with similar laws would only look at the other side of the question, there would be a happy ending to many controversies. If a Japanese should register his trademark in Japan prior to its use in trade by an American, by all means the rights of the Japanese should prevail in China, and the United States as well as the Japanese Consular Courts should respect such rights. But should the American acquire rights in a mark by priority of use before the registration of the mark in Japan, then the rights of the American should rule in the Consular Courts. There would be no hardship on the Japanese merchant under such rules of reciprocity, for there is never any consideration of value between use and registration of a trademark by Japanese merchants, they recognize the necessity, under their laws, of prompt registration.

The fact that reciprocal trademark rights were recognized by Japan in China would not affect the question of trademark property in Japan; it would still be necessary for American merchants to comply with the Japanese laws to prevent the infringement of their rights in that country. That until the Japanese feel disposed to reciprocate in trademark matters in China, American merchants who wish to protect their trademark rights in the Celestial land should not only take steps to register these marks at the American Consulate, but should also make certain that application for registration in Japan be filed without delay. The whole matter, in fact, should be placed in the hands of lawyers, who are familiar with the conditions and the foreigner trademark laws, and their advice should be followed. Otherwise the originator of a valuable trademark is liable to find himself, so far as the Far East is concerned, in the position of the purchaser of a house and lot whom thought he could draw up a deed without consulting a lawyer, and who eventually discovered that all he had bought was a lawsuit against the seller's wife, whom he had left in full possession of all her rights in the property.—Scientific American.

HONGKONG POLICE RESERVE.

ORDERS ISSUED BY MR. F. C. JENKIN, R.E.P. (RESERVE).

MUSKETEER—PART I.

The following will attend on Sunday next, January 13th:

Leave Blake Pier, 2 a.m.:

(1) To Fire: Chief Insp. d'Almada, Inspectors Alves and Silva-Netto, C.M.S. Alves and Figueiredo, C.S.M. Silva, Crown-Sergeants Butterfield, Barretto, Rosa and Castro. Also whole of Section 3 and part of Section 5 to be detailed by Section Commander.

(2) As Register-Keepers: Staff Inspectors Clarke, Linsigau, MacKenzie, McEwen, Watt and Wildin.

Leave Blake Pier, 1.30 p.m.:

(a) To Fire: Remainder of Section 6, whole of Section 7, and part of Section 8 to be detailed by Section Commander.

(b) As Register-Keepers: Six Crown-Sgt. or Sgts. of No. Company to be detailed by O.C. No. 3 Company.

All members of Sections 5-12 who are acting as Bandmen will attend with their respective Sections when hiring this Course.

By Order.
T. F. HOUGH, A.S.P. and Adjutant,
Hongkong, 6th January, 1918.

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG
THE DEGREE CEREMONY TO-DAY.

On the occasion of the Degree Ceremony at the University, to-day, tea will be served from 4.45 till 5.30. A procession will then be formed, including the Honorary Graduates and the members of the Court, Council and Senate.

After His Excellency the Chancellor has taken his seat and declared the Congregation open, the University Anthem will be played by the Band of the Middlesex Regiment. The Vice-Chancellor will then present the candidates for Honorary Degrees, and the Graduates in Medicine, Engineering and Arts will be presented by the Deans of their Faculties.

The Honorary Graduates will each make a short speech and the Chancellor will then declare the Congregation closed. As previously announced, the honorary degree of LL.D. will be conferred upon Sir James H. Stewart Lockhart, K.C.M.G., F.R.G.S., M.B.A.S., Mr. J. W. Jamieson, C.M.G., F.R.G.S.; and the Rev. T. W. Pearce.

Sir James Stewart Lockhart has been His Majesty's Commissioner for Wei-hai-wei since 1902. Born in 1838 at Ardsheal, Argyllshire, he was educated at King William's College, Isle of Man; Watson's College, Edinburgh (gold medalist); and at Edinburgh University (Gresham medalist). Appointed after a competitive examination to a Hongkong cadetship, he came to the Colony in 1880, and, after serving in various capacities, became Colonial Secretary and Registrar-General in March, 1885. In 1892 he was appointed Special Commissioner to report on the extension of the Boundary of Hongkong, and in the following year received the thanks of the Secretary of State for his services as Representative of Great Britain to delimit the boundaries. He also carried on the negotiations relative to the recession of Wei-hai-wei with the Viceroy of Shantung in May, 1906. Sir James takes a great interest in numismatics, folk-lore, and the language and literature of the Chinese—indeed, he was Chairman of the Board of Examiners in Chinese at Hongkong in 1891—as well as in the history of British trade with the Far East. He has written a "Manual of Chinese Quotations" and an authoritative work on the Currency of the Farther East. He married in 1889 the second daughter of Mr. Alfred Hancock, of Hongkong.

Mr. J. W. Jamieson has been the British Consul-General at Canton since 1902. During the period 1893-99 he was attached as Chinese Adviser to the Burma-China Frontier Delimitation Commission. In 1899 he was Commercial Attaché to the British Legation at Peking, and in 1905 he was seconded for service under the Colonial Office as Superintendent of Chinese Labour in the Transvaal. He was made a C.M.G. in 1910 and received the Coronation Medal in the following year.

The Rev. T. W. Pearce came out to Canton for the London Missionary Society in 1879 and remained there until 1893, when he was transferred to Hongkong. He was Acting Inspector of Schools 1893-1900, and an examiner at Queen's College 1897-8. He was appointed a member of the Committee on Interpretation, 1899-1900, and to the Board of Examiners in Chinese in 1897. When the Chamber of Commerce Language School was started his knowledge of Chinese at once indicated him as its Head.

SERVICES' ENTERTAINMENT FUND.

The following subscriptions to the above fund have been received by the Treasurer during the week ending Jan. 7th, 1918, and are gratefully acknowledged:—

A. Denison	5.00
N. J. Stubb	20.00
W. A. Dowley	5.00
W. J. D.	5.00
W. A. Hannibal	5.00
P. C. Potts	5.00
T. Arthur	5.00
W. C. F.	200.00
A. H. Harris	5.00
W. J. Pringle	5.00
A. H. C.	30.00
F. C. Butcher	5.00
Sale of Camp Photos by F. A. Perry	23.00
Total	308.00

*—Monthly subscription.

—Donation.

T. Robinson

(General Secretary)

F. G. B. Hastings, R.N.

(Naval Secretary)

C. E. Cooper-Hyatt, C.F.

(Military Sec. and Treasurer)

SPORTS
GOLF.

CAPTAIN'S CUP COMPETITION AT PANKING.

The following is the result of the competition for the Captain's Cup, played on the 5th inst. at Panking:—

T. R. Chasels	88-18=80
A. Ritchie	81-8=81
T. A. Laughlin	92-9=83
Bulmer Johnson	90-0=84

There were 22 entries.

RESULTS OF KOWLOON FAIR COMPETITIONS.

The following are the results of the golf competitions held on the Carnoustie course at Kowloon on New Year's Day:—

Ladies' Singles: Miss J. Rodger, 2; Mrs. Tarrant, 3; Mrs. Roland Braddell, 4; Mixed Foursomes: Captain and Mrs. Gray, W. D. Kraft and Miss Robertson, 1; Bunting Pool: J. R. E. Lindell, 2; Dr. Smalley, 3; C. C. Stark, 4; A. Ritchie.

Clock Golf: A. Ritchie and D. Purves (tie 21) and A. Morrison and G. H. May (tie 22).

Three cards were taken out against bogey (25): 1, Dr. Lindsay Woods, 1 down; 2, G. H. May, 2 down.

Winners will be notified later, and can then obtain their prizes at Wong-Hing. Mr. R. E. Lindell has presented two prizes to the workers of the Fair.

BILLIARDS.

SOLDIERS' CLUB TOURNAMENT.

The Police and Warders further increased their lead in this competition at the Soldiers' Club on Monday night, and, with Sergt. Pitt still to play, they are almost certain of becoming semi-finalists. Scores:—

H.K. AND WARDERS	SCORE	H.K. AND WARDERS	SCORE
Sgt. Grimmett 250	Mr. A. G. Pitt 173	Sgt. Brown 230	Mr. F. W. Black 219

The games between the 83rd and 83rd Companies which ended in a tie last Thursday are to be replayed to-night (Wednesday) and to-morrow night.

CRICKET.

"THE SMALL UNIT'S CUP."

The first match for the above took place between the A.O.C. and A.S.C. at Happy Valley on Monday. The A.S.C. batted first, securing a total of 88 runs to which the A.O.C. replied with 121. Major Robertson contributing 58, which included one six and 9 fours. Scores:—

ARMY SERVICE CORPS	SCORE	ARMY SERVICE CORPS	SCORE
Sgt. Allerton, c. Gibbons, b. Robert 1		Sgt. Allerton, c. Gibbons, b. Robert 1	
L.-Cpl. Gleason, b. Conner 1		L.-Cpl. Gleason, b. Conner 1	
Sgt. Turner, b. Conner 0		Sgt. Turner, b. Conner 0	
L.-Cpl. Gleason, b. Conner 18		L.-Cpl. Gleason, b. Conner 18	
Pte. Knight, b. Conner 0		Pte. Knight, b. Conner 0	
S. S. M. Sainsbury, not out 6		S. S. M. Sainsbury, not out 6	
(Q.M.S. Sheriff, b. Conner 9		(Q.M.S. Sheriff, b. Conner 9	
L.-Cpl. Hoath, b. Conner 12		L.-Cpl. Hoath, b. Conner 12	
Sgt. Allerton, b. Conner 10		Sgt. Allerton, b. Conner 10	
L.-Cpl. Gleason, b. Robertson 0		L.-Cpl. Gleason, b. Robertson 0	
Extras 10		Extras 10	
Total	62	Total	62

ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS.

ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS	SCORE	ARMY ORDNANCE CORPS	SCORE
Major Robertson, c. Sheriff, b. Pearce 58		Major Robertson, c. Sheriff, b. Pearce 58	
S. S. B. Wait, c. sub, b. Gleason 1		S. S. B. Wait, c. sub, b. Gleason 1	
Pte. Conner, retired 2		Pte. Conner, retired 2	
S. S. Houghton, c. sub, b. Pearce 2		S. S. Houghton, c. sub, b. Pearce 2	
Sgt. Field, c. Gleason, b. Hoath 9		Sgt. Field, c. Gleason, b. Hoath 9	
S. S. Harding, c. sub, b. Hoath 2		S. S. Harding, c. sub, b. Hoath 2	
S. S. Gibbons, c. sub, b. Gleason 7		S. S. Gibbons, c. sub, b. Gleason 7	
Pte. Booten, b. Hoath 4		Pte. Booten, b. Hoath 4	
L.-Cpl. Brain, c. Sheriff, b. Gleason 1		L.-Cpl. Brain, c. Sheriff, b. Gleason 1	
L.-Cpl. Smith, not out 0		L.-Cpl. Smith, not out 0	
Extras 10		Extras 10	
Total	121	Total	121

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

HONGKONG LEAGUE—DIVISION II.

Middlesex Res. v. Staff and Depts. Navy Ground, to-day. Kick-off, 4 p.m. Referee, Mr. Atwell.

The United Services League match between the Royal Engineers and the R.G.A. which should take place to-day, has had to be postponed on account of the military duties of the latter team.

WATER RETURN.

The Water Return shows that water in storage on the Island on January 1st was 1,173.10 millions of gallons as compared with 430.18 millions of gallons at the same date last year. The consumption during December was 171.89 million gallons by an estimated population of 270,319, being 20.5 gallons per head per day. In December, 1916, the consumption was 110.15 millions of gallons by an estimated population of 269,719, being 14 gallons per head per day. During December, 1916, the services to the houses in the rider main districts were discontinued and a supply was given by public street fountains.

The storage of water at Kowloon on January 1st was 274.40 millions of gallons, as compared with 278.05 millions of gallons on the same date last year. The consumption during December was 41.18 millions of gallons by an estimated population of 101,000, being at the rate of 13.2 gallons per head per day. In December, 1916, the consumption was 27.78 millions of gallons by an estimated population of 99,200, being at the rate of 11.9 gallons per head per day. The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.
A GENEROUS LUKONG.

A Chinese was charged with stealing a quantity of mat bags belonging to a Chinese contractor.

Defendant stated that a *lukong*, whom he had never seen before, gave the mat bags to him as a present.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$10; in default, twenty-one days' hard labour.

THEFT OF CLOTHING.

A Chinese youth was charged with stealing two black coats, which were hanging out to dry outside a house in Shanghai Street.

Defendant stated that he picked up the two coats in a *naulab*.

Complainant said he saw defendant come up to the house and remove the clothes. He gave chase and arrested him.

Mr. J. R. Wood sentenced defendant to one month's hard labour.

GAMBLING TO KILL TIME.

Ten bailiffs' watchmen pleaded guilty to gambling.

Inspector Kent stated that the defendants were put in charge of a barber's saloon, which had been seized by the Court for debt. Evidently with the intention of whiling away an unconscionable wait, they indulged in a game of *Nyau pai*, staking money.

The men were arrested and taken to the Police Station.

Mr. Dyer Bail fined each defendant \$5.

THE EFFECT OF GAMBLING.

A Chinese, employed by the P.W.D., pleaded guilty to stealing two sheets of corrugated iron.

Inspector Kent stated that when defendant was arrested, on Monday night at Wing Lok Street, with the pieces of iron in his possession, he admitted to the *liking* that he had stolen the metal from a garden in Bonham Road.

Defendant said he had lost all his money by gambling and had committed the theft in order to recoup himself.

Mr. Dyer Bail sentenced defendant to three weeks' hard labour.

FIGHTING WOMEN.

Two Chinese women were charged with fighting in the public street thereby creating a disturbance.

First defendant stated that while they were engaged in carrying bricks, second defendant was rude to her. Words were followed by blows, witness receiving a "black eye."

The second defendant said the first defendant provoked the assault. She herself was a person of a peaceable disposition, and did not care to utter offensive remarks.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined each defendant \$5.

PORTUGUESE LADY v. AMAH.

A Portuguese lady was charged with assaulting a Chinese amah.

Mr. J. H. Gardiner, who appeared for the defendant, admitted the assault, but stated that it was provoked by the insolent attitude of the amah. Complainant was employed at defendant's house sometime ago, but was dismissed. She visited defendant's house on New Year's Day and was very offensive to defendant, who slapped her. A general squabble ensued, and blows were exchanged.

Complainant stated that defendant hurt her wrist rather seriously.

Mr. J. R. Wood suggested that an amicable settlement should be arrived at. This was agreed to, defendant paying complainant \$4, compensation for her injured wrist.

A PUBLIC WORKS PROSECUTION.

A Chinese contractor pleaded guilty to departing from the original plans submitted to the Public Works Department in regard to the flooring of a house.

Defendant said that his master had given him no instructions to make alterations.

Mr. Hutchings, of the P.W.D., stated that defendant had submitted a plan for filling a well in the flooring of the house.

According to the plan, the well was to be filled with new joists, which were to extend from wall to wall, instead of short joists. Evidently, with the intention of economizing in expenditure, defendant used old short length joists to cover up the well, thereby making the floor quite unsafe for treading upon. It might cause a collapse of the building and the loss of life.

Mr. Dyer Bail fined defendant \$20.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

NEW YEAR'S DAY IN MACAO.

The *O Progress* of Macao, in its issue of the 6th instant, gives the following account of the official celebrations held there on New Year's Day:—

"New Year's Day was celebrated at Government House in Macao with unusual brilliancy. In the morning at 11 o'clock, there was a distribution of cakes and toys to the poor children, who went to Government House accompanied by the priests of the parishes of the city.

"H.E. the Governor and Madame Vieira de Mattos presided at the distribution, which was made by their lovely little daughter, the small ones being treated with the utmost kindness and thus being afforded the pleasure of also celebrating, as the least favoured by Fortune, the coming of the New Year.

It was an initiative worthy of all sympathy and which, fashioned after the custom of giving a treat to the poor without the character of public alms—which always prejudices gifts of this nature—left a touching impression on the few persons who were present at the act and who were able to enjoy the simple and enchanting gladness that was depicted on the faces of the little ones.

"At 3.15 p.m., H.E. the Governor received the compliments of the members of the Municipal Council, and a reception was immediately afterwards held of all civil and military functionaries and other residents of the colony who called in great numbers to pay His Excellency their respects.

"Following the reception, which was held in the State Hall, H.E. and Madame Vieira de Mattos entertained a large number of their friends to tea.

"His Lordship the Bishop was present at both the reception and distribution of cakes and toys, his call being returned by H.E. the Governor on the same day.

"All who went to Government House were delighted with the kindness and gracious attention shown to them."

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

The approximate statement of traffic receipts for the week ending 5th January is as follows:—

	Receipts for week	Aggregate receipts for 1 week
This Year	\$12,248	—
Last Year	12,188	—
Increase	60	—

EXTENSIVE THEFT OF RUBBER.

A Chinese junk-owner and his wife were charged, on remand, with the theft of 400 lbs. of rubber, valued at \$250, the property of the Kowloon godowns.

The Chinese watchman, who arrested the two defendants, stated that a clerk in the godowns informed him of the shortage of rubber and ordered him to search defendants' junk. He did so and found 75 lbs. of rubber concealed underneath the defendants' sleeping quarters, while the remaining 325 lbs. were found ingeniously placed between the frame-work of the junk. The woman was the only person on the junk at the time, and he arrested her. Witness subsequently found the first defendant near the complainant's office.

Defendants denied that they were concerned in the theft, and said they were not responsible for their folk's misdeeds.

Mr. H. Summers, landing overseer at the Kowloon godowns, also gave evidence. The case was again remanded.

RESTAURANT OPEN AFTER HOURS.

The Chinese proprietor of the Hung Hoi Restaurant pleaded guilty to keeping his restaurant open after hours.

Mr. E. Davidson, who appeared for the defendant, said that a private individual engaged one of the halls of the restaurant on Monday night. A dinner party was held which continued till the small hours of the morning. By this time some of the members of the party were the worse for liquor, and, as it was very cold and the organizer of the party had no coat, it was suggested that a coat should be brought from his house. The men remained at the restaurant till the coat arrived, but in the meantime the Police came, saw the scene, and charged the restaurant-keeper with keeping his restaurant open after hours, but his patrons took no notice.

Inspector O'Sullivan said that defendant had been previously fined for a similar offence.

Mr. J. R. Wood fined defendant \$50, remarking that the proprietor was responsible for keeping the law.

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(10)

THE WAR.

BRITISH CAPTURES AND LOSSES LAST YEAR.

NEW MINEFIELDS FOR PROTECTION OF ALLIED SHIPPING.

LORD READING APPOINTED HIGH COMMISSIONER TO U.S.A.

FINE WORK OF BRITISH AND FRENCH IN ITALY.

THE PREMIER'S SPEECH ENDORSED BY ALLIES.

Branco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES. (THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE BRITISH FRONT. RAIDS REFUSED.

LONDON, January 7th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—
We repulsed a raid south-eastward of Ypres. Hostile artillery was active at Passchendaele.

EARLIER CABLES. SPASMODIC ACTIVITY.

LONDON, January 7th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports occasional hostile artillery firing to the south-east of Messines.

FRENCH FRONT. INTENSE ARTILLERY DUEL.

PARIS, January 7th.
A communiqué states:—There was a very intense artillery duel at night-time on the right of the M. se, in the Bezonvaux and Les Chambrettes regions. Five enemy aeroplanes were brought down.

Italian Front.

LATEST CABLES. (THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE ITALIAN RESISTANCE. GOOD WORK OF BRITISH AND FRENCH TROOPS.

LONDON, January 7th.
An Italian official communiqué states:—The British and French batteries repeatedly shelled positions and the rear areas between Vidor, Pontedella and Graila, achieving excellent results. The British patrols forced the river Piave at some points.

Aerial Activities.

LATEST CABLES. (THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

AIR REPRISALS ON ENEMY TOWNS.

MORE ENEMY AEROPLANES BROUGHT DOWN.

LONDON, January 7th.
Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—

Aeroplanes on Sunday machine-gunned, with 11,000 rounds, troops, transports and other targets, and dropped three tons of bombs on different objectives.

We brought down six and drove down two machines.

Two of ours are missing.

AMSTERDAM, January 8th.
A telegram from Karlsruhe, dated the 4th instant, reports Allied air attacks on Mannheim, Rastatt and Friburg.

The *Telegraph* states that the big new flying camp on the Oostackeron-Ghent-Lokern-Antwerp line has been greatly damaged in the aerial attacks.

EARLIER CABLES. BOMBS DROPPED IN SWITZERLAND.

BERNE, January 6th.
An invisible aviator, of unknown nationality, bombed a Swiss railway train near Lake Neuchâtel.

There were no casualties, but the windows of the train and telegraph wires were destroyed.

The Near East.

EARLIER CABLES. (THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

FIGHT NEAR ADEN.

LONDON, January 7th.
The War Office announces that it is reported from Aden that a strong reconnaissance in the direction of Hatum and Jabir resulted in the destruction of Hatum's defences.

The enemy's casualties were severe.

General.

LATEST CABLES. (THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

LORD READING'S NEW POST

BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER TO U.S.A.

LONDON, January 7th.
It is understood that Lord Reading has been appointed British High Commissioner to the United States and will also take charge of the British War Mission at New York and Washington, Lord Northcliffe remaining the head of the British Mission to the United States in London.

Later.
The appointments of Lord Reading and Northcliffe are officially confirmed.

LONDON, January 8th.
Lord Northcliffe interviewed, said Lord Reading's appointment emphasised the tremendousness of the task of representing all the British interests in the United States at a time when the inter-dependence of each other's war efforts had assumed such a vast scale. He was of opinion that Lord Reading would be given full authority to act on his own initiative, as was the case during his former visit. He would possess the goodwill of the people and the Government of the United States. Our combined establishments at Washington had grown so much that they would now make the most creditable showing in Whitehall.

LONDON, January 8th.
It is officially announced that Sir Cecil Spring Rice is departing from Washington on leave.

Lord Reading's appointment as High Commissioner will have the character of Ambassador on Special Mission, with full authority over all British Missions in the United States.

BRITISH CAPTURES AND LOSSES.

FIGURES FOR LAST YEAR.

LONDON, January 7th.
The War Office has issued the following statement of British captures in 1917:—
In the Western Theatre 73,131 prisoners and 531 guns.
In Palestine 17,646 prisoners and 108 guns.
In Mesopotamia 15,944 prisoners and 324 guns.

In East Africa 6,728 prisoners and 18 guns.
In Salonika 1,025 prisoners.
Total 1,145,44 prisoners and 781 guns.

The British losses on the Western Front were approximately 27,500 prisoners and 166 guns, in Palestine 610 prisoners, Mesopotamia 267, East Africa 100 and Salonika 202, making a total of 28,379 prisoners and 166 guns.

NATIONAL WAR BONDS. RECORD SUBSCRIPTIONS.

LONDON, January 7th.
Last week's subscriptions to the National War Bonds through the banks amounted to nearly £24,000,000, a record for a week.
So far over £211,000,000 has been subscribed through the banks and over £11,000,000 through the Post Office.
Up to December 29th over £137,000,000 was realised by the sale of War-Savings Certificates.

MR. ROCKFELLER'S BENEFACTION.

DONATION TO MEET INCREASING WAR EXPENDITURE.

LONDON, January 8th.
Mr. Rockefeller has given five and a half million dollars to the Rockefeller Foundation to meet the increasing expenditure of war work.
Mr. Rockefeller's contributions to the Foundation will now total 130 million dollars.

THE SILVER MARKET.

LONDON, January 8th.
Silver is quoted at 45d. per ounce, and the market is steady.

EARLIER CABLES. THE RUSSO-GERMAN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

A SIGNIFICANT SILENCE.

AMSTERDAM, January 7th.
The Heads of the Quadruple Delegations at Brest-Litovsk have jointly sent a wireless telegram to the President of the Russian Delegation pointing out that the period of ten days allowed to the other belligerents to decide whether they should participate in the peace negotiations expired on the 4th instant, and that no declaration regarding their participation in the negotiations had so far been received from any other belligerent.

RUSSIAN AND PERSIA.

PETERSBURG, January 7th.
M. Trotzky has sent a Note to Persia offering to negotiate for the removal of Russian troops from Persia, if Turkey agrees to do likewise.

It is proposed that Persia should communicate with Turkey on the subject.

KUEHLMANN AND THE GERMAN ARMY.

LONDON, January 7th.
The split between the Pan-German Annexationists and the more Moderate elements in Germany over the Brest-Litovsk negotiations is evidenced by the violent attack of the *Rheinische West-fälische Zeitung* on Baron Kuehlmann, to whose conduct in the peace negotiations it attributes General Ludendorff's reported intention to resign.

The Journal doubts whether the Army Command can any longer co-operate with Baron Kuehlmann. It declares that "Renunciations in the East" is Baron Kuehlmann's watchword, and renunciation in the West will follow. The Germans must now choose between Generals Hindenburg and Ludendorff or Barons Kuehlmann and Hertling. General Ludendorff's resignation was not heard of in London until Berlin announced that the report was not in accordance with the facts.

HIS MAJESTY'S REPLY TO QUEBEC'S MESSAGE.

LONDON, January 7th.
The King has replied to Quebec's message, which was cabled on the 3rd instant, conveying the cordial thanks of His Majesty, who does not doubt that he may count on the determined participation of the people of Quebec in the war, and fervently joining them in their prayer that our righteous cause will be crowned at an early date with a victorious and abiding peace.

CONFERENCE OF ALLIED PREMIERS AT PARIS.

PARIS, January 7th.
The *Echo de Paris* states that the Allied Premiers will shortly confer at Paris.

THE ORDER OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

LONDON, January 8th.
A *Gazette* comprising forty-six pages contains the names of the recipients of various grades of the Order of the British Empire for war services. It is headed by Dame Grand Cross conferred upon Queen Alexandra.

Seven Knights Grand Cross include Sir Arthur Lee, Director of Food Production; Sir William Plender Wingate, High Commissioner of Egypt.

Five Dames Grand Cross include Viscountess Northcliffe.

Sixty-eight Knights-Commander include Mr. William Goode, honorary secretary of the National Committee for Belgian Relief; Mr. Alexander Grace, Managing Director of the Fairfield Shipbuilding Company (Glasgow); Mr. John Lloyd, Director-General of Recruiting; Mr. James McKelvie, Managing Director of Messrs. Vickers; Mr. Roderick Jones, Managing Director of Messrs. Reuters, Limited; Mr. Charles Stewart, Public Trustee; Major General Lee Stack, acting Sirder.

Fourteen Dames-Commander include Lady Lugard, the founder of the War Refugees' Committee.

[Lady Lugard, the wife of Sir Frederick Lugard, who succeeded Sir Matthew Nathan as Governor of Hongkong in 1907, is, of course, well known to many residents in the Colony. Since the outbreak of hostilities Lady Lugard has been identified very closely with special war work.]

Sir John Furler, Mr. James Andrew Seddon, Labour M.P., and Mr. James Parker, Labour M.P. for Halifax, have been appointed Companions of Honour.

Two hundred and seventy-two Commanders include Miss Stevenson, private secretary to Mr. Lloyd George, and Mr. J. J. Virgo.

There is also a long roll of Officers and Members of the Order.

LISTS OF OVERSEAS AWARDS DEFERRED.

In order to meet the convenience of the Dominions and Colonies, and in view of the present slowness of communications, it has been arranged to defer until a later date, probably March 1st, notification of the lists of appointments to the Order of the British Empire in respect of services in or for the Dominions and Colonies.

TEST CABLES.

FIGHTING THE SUBMARINES TWO MINEFIELDS FOR PROTECTION OF BRITISH SHIPPING.

LONDON, January 7th.
Lloyd's Agency announces that two new British minefields for the protection of merchantmen against submarines have been laid, covering practically the whole sea area between the Belgian coast and Dover and Folkestone.

The British mine area off the coast of Jutland and the German seaboard has also been enlarged.

EARLIER CABLES.

INTERESTING FRENCH FIGURES.

PARIS, January 7th.
The Ministry of Marine has published diagrams showing that the losses of the Allied merchantmen owing to submarineism have steadily decreased since June.

The measures taken after the serious crisis which culminated in April, 1917, so reduced the losses that the situation in December, 1917, was better than in December, 1916.

The losses of supply-ships had been reduced by 14 per cent, especially owing to the convoying system.

The results of the destruction of enemy submarines were also encouraging. The losses, based on certainties, had steadily increased since the end of September, 1916. They were during the last quarter of 1917 nine times greater than the corresponding period of 1916.

The decrease in the losses by submarineism was due, not to the reduction of floating tonnage, but to the new measures.

THE FINNISH REPUBLIC.

RECOGNITION BY GERMANY.

LONDON, January 7th.
Germany has recognised the Finnish Republic.

BRITISH EMPIRE'S WAR AIMS.

AMERICAN PRESS COMMENT.

WASHINGTON, January 6th.
Official circles generally approve of Mr. Lloyd George's speech for its moderation and clearness.

One official said that the Prime Minister had taken the statements of the British, French and Italian political leaders, and even President Wilson's, and developed them more sharply than they had been originally formulated.

The American Press widely comments on the statement as a timely and decisive step, clarifying the position of the Entente Powers, and which must be met before any peace-gathering can be thought of.

The *Sun* says the statement tells the Teutons squarely that the peace they desire is attainable without national destruction or intolerable humiliation.

The *New York Times* says it is impossible to exaggerate the pledge to stand by French democracy till death. "We can imagine no more appalling blunder than failure to support the French demand that Alsace-Lorraine should be restored."

GERMANY'S AMBIGUOUS DECLARATIONS.

DECLARATIONS.

LONDON, January 7th.

Professor Forster, writing in the *Berlin Post*, ridicules the German idea that Great Britain went to war to get rid of Germany's commercial competition, and America to secure her foreign investments.

"Great Britain and America are waging war to remove war and the peril of war from the world. Germany's actual readiness for peace must be manifested in a more concrete form than by her general ambiguous declarations."

THE FRENCH VIEW.

PARIS, January 7th.

Mr. Lloyd George's speech has profoundly impressed all circles in France, especially labour.

The French Press unanimously hail it as the most important speech delivered by the head of any Government during the war.

The *Daily Chronicle* says that the vital goal is the prevention of a future war, and the establishment with that object of an effective League of Nations. The terse triple formula with which the speech concludes may go out to the world as the Empire's message, endorsed by the sister nations of our great Commonwealth.

The *Times* says the speech is the most important State document issued since the declaration of war.

"To attain a League of Nations we are ready to fight to the death, and to employ that control of raw materials which is among the most potent weapons of the Allied democracies."

The *Daily Express* states:—"Germany finds herself taken seriously. It is the supreme test of her sincerity."

Mr. Ramsey MacDonald, M.P., in a speech at Glasgow, says that Mr. Lloyd George's speech was an expression of the mind of a man who said that all problems would have to be settled when the clouds were lifted.

The *Daily Mail* states:—"We can never offer better terms. Mr. Lloyd George's allusion to Germany's need for raw materials after the war is a reminder that, while we command the sea, it is possible to harden our price."

The *Daily News* says the nation can go forward with a clear conscience and a firm purpose. We have laid down the lines for a clean peace.

GERMAN COMMENT.

AMSTERDAM, January 7th.

The *Vossische Zeitung* describes Mr. Lloyd George's speech as the first tangible British peace offer, but a peace at the expense of Germany's allies and the return of German colonies in exchange for the strengthening of the British position in Asia is not acceptable.

The *Lebische Zeitung* says that Mr. Lloyd George's words have changed, but the old Imperialistic aims are wholly maintained.

The *Lebische Zeitung* says the old desire to smash Germany for ever is still apparent, and the answer will be given by submarines and the German troops on the Western Front.

MR. HUGHES' OPINION.

MELBOURNE, January 8th.
Mr. Hughes, in commenting on Mr. Lloyd George's speech, said that both the tone and the terms were worthy of the hour and the man.

EMPIRE'S THANKSGIVING DAY.

LONDON, January 7th.

According to the Royal Proclamation, Sunday, January 6th, was observed as a Day of Intercession in the Churches of all denominations throughout the land.

In hospitals and training camps there were special forms of prayer and thanksgiving. In several instances volunteers attended churches and military bands assisted the choirs.

Public-houses were voluntarily closed all day.

There were intercession services at some of the cinema theatres and the message of the Prime Minister was shown on the screens at others.

GUATEMALA CITY DESTROYED.

WASHINGTON, January 7th.

Further earthquakes in Guatemala City have completed the destruction of the remaining parts of the city and caused 800 more deaths.

CANTON NEWS.

[BY COURTESY OF THE "CHUNG KOOI SAN PO."]

Canton, January 8th.

THE RESULT OF THE BOMBARDMENT.
The Tsuchun Mok Wing-sen, after the bombardment, called all the leaders into consultation. It was at last decided that the Generalissimo, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and the Tsuchun should each have his own limited power, and that the appointment of any delegate for Foreign Affairs must be approved by the Generalissimo.

Both sides have agreed to these terms and the trouble may now be regarded as settled. We are informed, however, that Dr. Sun Yat-sen, who is now out of favour with the public officials, proposes to leave Canton.

THE TUCHUN'S RESIGNATION.
Owing to the split between the Generalissimo and the Tsuchun the latter has asked General Luk Wing-fong for instructions. It is said that the Tsuchun has decided to resign, and that his successor will be Admiral Ching Pik Kwong.

GENERAL LUNG'S MOVEMENT.
Reports have been received stating that General Lung Chai-kwong recently sent his armies from Yeung-Kong into the interior.

Another report states that General Lung's troops, about 2,000 strong, have entered Yeung-Kong city and that the magistrate and other city authorities have fled.

ANOTHER TRANSPORT CAPTURED.
It is reported that one of Lung's transports, the *Tai On*, which was returning to Hoi-Kow, after conveying troops to Liu-Chow, has been captured by the Hoi-Ki, and will be brought to Canton.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.
The President recently sent delegates to enquire into the real opinion of the South-West. We are informed that Dr. Wu Ting-fong received a cable from the President, requesting him to go to Peking to explain the views of the South-West regarding the peace negotiations. Wu, owing to the President's continued policy of sending troops to the South, has not yet agreed to go to the capital.

MOVEMENT OF NORTHERN SQUADRON.
The Defence Commissioner of Swatow has wired to the Tsuchun stating that the Northern gunboats *Sui-We* and *Ying Su* left Amoy yesterday. They are expected to go to help General Lung in King-Chow. We are informed that three gunboats of the 1st Squadron have been sent to watch them.

THE WORLD'S GOLD PRODUCTION.

The world's total gold production during 1916, as published by the *Engineering and Mining Journal*, shows that the estimates made by various authorities earlier in the year were very near the mark. The actual figure amounted to \$470,442,058, a decrease of something over eight million dollars compared with 1915, but an increase of about ten and a quarter millions compared with 1914.

The decline is largely explained by a falling off in Australasian, American and Canadian outputs which have been only partly offset by an increase of about six million dollars in the African yield. It appears that the war has had little direct effect on gold production, most of the producing countries being out of the direct track of the conflict.

Even in Russia the only effect on gold mining felt was the withdrawal of working forces for the army. Mexico's activity was diminished by internal troubles actively.



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GREAT DAYS.

VICTORIES OF 1917.

[BY "THE TIMES" MILITARY CORRESPONDENT.]

Four fighting days in the British campaign of 1917 stand out conspicuously above the rest. Namely, those of April 28th, June 7th, July 31st, and September 26th. These have all been days of grand attacks, planned and destined to prove the superiority of the British over the German arms in battle. All have been well planned, finely executed, and completely successful. With heavy loss of men, material, and moral, the German Armies in front of our gallant troops have been thrown out of the strongest positions ever created by the wit of man.

This last battle of September 26th only differs from the others in that it is a continuation of the day of July 31st, and the completion of the Commander's plan for that operation. Nothing but the horrible weather of August and the early part of this month prevented it from being fought out to its logical and inevitable consequences long ago. In the sudden fields of Flanders an Army is dependent, and too much dependent, upon the weather. This was, always true, but it is particularly true now that we have systematized this new warfare and do not normally send our infantry outside the cover of our guns. The guns must be moved before the success can be followed up by another, and given sudden ground, the great weight of heavy guns, and the complete disappearance of all ordinary means of communication in the area between contending armies, fine weather is next to indispensable before guns can be successfully moved up.

Any delay in the prosecution of an attack once it has been launched is necessarily disadvantageous. During the delays caused by the weather an enemy is able to withdraw his shattered troops and guns, to repair them, and within a minimum period of three weeks to send his regiments back into the line and to reorganize his reserves. In this particular case of the battle of July 31st the main objective of our troops was completely exposed by that day's fighting, and the Germans ever since have piled up defences and accumulated troops to arrest the British advance on the Meuse road. Hindenburg and his chief lieutenants have visited the scene of strife and everything possible has been done to prevent Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig from achieving his purpose. A maze of strong places, provided with every defensive and offensive apparatus known to man, was created, and in rear there was an unusually large number of divisions held in reserve, and obviously retained for counter-attacks of more than ordinary violence.

All the more credit is due to commanders and troops for not only overcoming all these super-defences in a few hours, but for holding all the gains of the 26th in the face of powerful and reiterated counter-attacks delivered with the greatest determination by fresh reserves. Neither serious check nor fault is discoverable in the conduct of this masterly attack. It has been proved many times in this war that nothing can safely be omitted in the mounting of a grand attack, and that if there be any want of skill or science, whether in staff work or the direction of any arm, it is sure to exact a terrible punishment. When, on the other hand, generalship, staff science, and the conduct of all arms in battle approach perfection, then, and only then, do we read of such glorious victories as those of Arras, Vimy, Messines, and Menin Road.

General Petain has rightly commended in very warm terms the Commander and the Staff of the Second French Army. We also have a Second Army Commander and Staff of whom we are proud. We saw them at work at Messines when they showed themselves the equals of those of our other Armies, and here east of Ypres they are in their own domain. It is perhaps true that the Germans east of Ypres have put up against us a more perfected defence than the history of this war has even shown, or than future history will disclose. The defeat of our British Armies is the desire most deeply felt in German breasts, and as Hindenburg has known nothing but defeat in the West since he assumed command, we can be sure that all the best paraphernalia of German militarism has been arrayed against us. In four hours all was tumbled into the dust or mud, and *ruinards* was once more the German battle-cry.

We know, of course, that the subversive German Press, taking its orders from the nearest military authority, who will in his turn be inspired by Ludendorff, will talk once more of the elastic German defence, will say that there is no break through, and will conclude that it does not matter. It matters a great deal, or at least, if we had prepared such tremendous positions as those from which the Germans have been four times driven by us this year with immense loss of prisoners and guns, we should think that it mattered. But it would have proved our inferiority. The implacable will of our Commander-in-Chief in France imposes itself upon the enemy, and gives him the law. It is not a question now of whether German Armies in our front be beaten, but only when they will be beaten, and the harder the resistance the greater the defeat.

Let us talk of strategy again when the process of beating the Germans down is further advanced. The Germans in the field must first be made to acknowledge their inferiority by constant hammering, and strategy returns when this object has been attained, and when all available German reserves have been used up. This process goes on in the West with constant grinding effect, and it is no less terrible because the Germans do not talk about it. Would peace be the dominant interest in Germany were there a belief anywhere that the Germans could win? They cannot win, and well they know it. But can you win a war and lose a peace, and here diplomacy stops in to make or to mar the vintage of victory.

ON THE MARCH IN PALESTINE

The thing, that was that I've seen

In barracks, camp and action too,
I tell them over to myself,
An' sometimes wonder if they're true.

—KIPING.

An Australian was once asked what the desert was like. His answer was expressive: "You get miles and miles of sand," he said, "Then miles and miles of blooming sand, and then d-n all!" And so it must have seemed to those who, in the early days of driving the Turk back from the canal, had to cross that monotonous and seemingly unlimited stretch of country that lies east of the Suez Canal. Different from the Libyan Desert, which is all stony; it is just rolling sand dunes covered to a slight extent in places with a coarse, camel grass, and very rarely are one's eyes soothed by the greenness of a Palm Grove.

Our work on the western front being accomplished, reorganized and re-equipped, we found ourselves one early morning waiting to entrain on the Eastern Express. The familiar green of the engine, with its letters L and S.W.R., turned the thoughts of many of us to our "little grey home in the West." But not for us this time the string of palatial cars that roll out of Waterloo; rather the useful freighter whose home is at Nine Elms. In the baggage compartments, the only difference being that the former are allowed more room, and so the fortunate possessors of camp chairs can spread them out, while others sit on their valises. The time being early Spring, there was no necessity to spread an awning of blankets to keep off the sun. A warning whistle from the engine, prepares us for the jolt, and a good jolt it is, as, punctual to the moment, our train pulls out.

We then proceed to make ourselves comfortable for the journey that lies before us. The wise campaigner will always have something on him to read, so books and old newspapers soon appear from the various haversacks, and are shared round by all. The permanent way is not the essence of smoothness, but as an engineering proposition it is a marvelous accomplishment, as, although only ballasted with sand it successfully stands the strain of the heavy freight trains carrying supplies to the front; and even at home you do not see larger or more heavily loaded trucks. With no cuttings and not many deviations to escape gradients, the line stretches away to its distant goal, and the slowness of an uphill pull is compensated by the downward run, when the train apparently taking charge the engine-driver, to show that he is really in authority, momentarily jams on the brakes, producing a jolt sufficient to shake out your back seat. It is all in the day's work, and there are more ways of travelling than in a Pullman car.

The increasing heat, with its accompanying glare, begins to make reading a trial, and eyelids drop and, one by one, we drop off into a fitful slumber, but when the word is passed that we are overtaking some Yeomanry Regiment, every one hastily rises. Greetings are exchanged, for we recognise many of the riders, and until a fold of the ground shuts them out from our sight, we gaze with admiring, but envious eyes, at the marching squadrons, for when a man carries his belongings on his back he never has to go running round looking for his luggage.

Our orders were quickly given us, and away we marched over some of the heaviest sand we have met (and our knowledge of sand is considerably extensive). Across a Wadi, lined by palm trees, their feathery tops waving to the sea breeze—and up through some fig orchards we went, and out into the open plain, the far side of which we found our camping ground. Tents were there waiting for us, and soon the only sound to be heard was that of the mallet striking the pegs, which were well sunk into the ground, and when sand had been piled on the curtain we felt we were all secure against storm. In exploring round next morning, we found some fragments of a high-explosive shell close by what had been a Turkish machine-gun entrenchment.

The adjacent town had for a long time been the Headquarters of the Turkish Army, and their old horse and camel lines were only a quarter of a mile away from us. The town of El Arish was the cleanest we have met in Egypt, and we were much struck by the fact that many of its inhabitants had their own private picture they looked with their variegated, coloured robes of sheepskin, the natural shades of brown, black and white being most effectively well blended. Here we had an example of the excellent shooting of our guns, as the fort is a heap of ruins, the surrounding houses being untouched by our shells.

In going through the fig orchards, one wondered at the barrenness of the lower branches, until the explanation was furnished by the sight of a large herd of goats, most of them standing on their hind legs to reach the leaves. What those goats lived on must always be a mystery. Grass there was none—pickings there were none; an occasional fig leaf could hardly be called a meal; but the effect of their presence was to warn what should have been masses of greenery into barren scarecrows. We had a good example of how the sand covers everything in time. It was necessary to dig what is commonly called a "Funk-Hole," when the party struck the top of a large dune. They broke through it, only to find it filled with a very fine, dry sand, finer than that outside. Whether it was a tomb or well-head we do not know, as we got our orders to march before it could be cleared.

(Continued at foot of next Column.)

LARGEST CORN CROP IN AMERICA'S HISTORY.

A corn crop larger by more than 60,000,000 bushels than ever grown in the nation's history is the production of the farmers of the United States this year (says a message from Washington, dated November 8th). The Department of Agriculture today, in its preliminary estimate of the crop, placed the quantity at 3,191,033,000 bushels. Conditions since the October forecast caused a reduction of about 19,700,000 bushels in the indicated output.

Potatoes also are a record crop, with a total of 439,059,000 bushels, but unfavourable weather late in the season caused a reduction of 13,000,000 bushels.

Tobacco production is a record. "The corn crop of 1917 is notable as occupying the largest acreage and producing the largest total crop on record," said a statement of the Department of Agriculture. "The yield per acre, however, is not exceptional, owing to an unfavourable season, characterized by a late Spring, a cold Summer, which was too dry over much of the corn belt, and early and damaging frosts, and freezes, this season being thus shortened at both ends. Thus, unhappily, the bountiful crop contains much corn that did not fully mature, probably in excess of 20 per cent., although most of this had reached the dough stage, making it useful for silos and early feeding."

"The potato crop, estimated at 400,000,000 bushels, is the largest on record, notwithstanding an unfavourable September and October, which cut down the actual production below the forecasts made earlier in the season. The northern commercial sections were most seriously affected by the unfavourable weather during October. The quality of the crop is slightly above average."

"The buckwheat production of 16,924,000 bushels fell below early forecasts, although it is up to an average in total production compared with former years."

"The flaxseed crop, estimated at 9,648,000 bushels is very disappointing in its outcome, being smaller than early forecasts, and much below an average production."

"The tobacco crop of 1,183,478,000 pounds is the largest on record."

Perhaps some unit is now enriched by some rare find of antiquities, perhaps not! I think not, decidedly not.

At any rate we shall never know, as I am sure nobody will ever go back to look.

Half-past five one evening found the brigade fallen in full marching order, and, punctually to time, we set out on the first stage of that march which was to bring us to the battle line once more. North of the camp we struck the road, that monument of a great brain-wave on somebody's part. Pleasant to walk on, carrying a good spring, it stretches from the canal to the front, but the heavily-laden infantryman must beware of holes, for should one catch his foot, a nasty shaking fall is the result; we were one of those who fell, so we know. Hence frequently down the line comes the old hunting cry "Ware Hole."

A few days' march brought us to the old boundary line of Palestine; and we were spread out in detached parts in a wide semi-circle; a line on the ground above the station falling to our particular lot. Our dug-outs were sunk in high, dry grass, and very pleasant it was to look over miles of great cultivated land, reminding one very much of our own downs at home.

A stay of a few days was made unforgettable by a Khamsen which came on; and, as digging parties had to be formed all day, the men's endurance was tested to the utmost. We left at 1.30 p.m. with the Khamsen still blowing. After a morning's digging, great was our relief when we arrived at our new position under the trees of Khair Yunus. Khan Yunus, they tell me, was the home of Delilah. From what we saw, there are at present no fatal beauties which are at all likely ever to make a man turn his head towards them, much less turn it for him. We suppose the breed has died out.

Am Tempora, niliæ foeminae.

In the centre of the town is a well of excellent water about 150 or more feet deep. The motive power is supplied by a little oil engine that saw its origin in our own country. We told the R.E. Corporal that if she got out of order we could easily produce some of the boys who helped to make her. Overlooking the well is a mosque which, it is said, was once a castle built by—do Boulton! It may be so—the ponderous wall looks like it.

We were bivouacked on the ridge northeast of the town, in grassy fields with cacti hedges, most of company headquarters being able to find trees to provide shades for our dug-outs. A short stay here and we soon found ourselves digging shelter holes behind the light ground south-east of Gaza. We had only to go about a hundred yards to look down over the valley where the Wadi Ghuzzar runs, and see, away in the distance, the minarets of Gaza showing white amidst the palm groves. And again, on the right hand, the distant hills, where lay the Turkish lines.

Digging was the order, and good trenches were dug in those fields of barley—excellent barley most of it was. Many of our dug-out-minded handmen cut and stacked lots of it. May it be of some use to somebody. Probably some mounted troops will benefit by it later.

In the barley were quail, many quail, so we must needs sally forth one afternoon in front of our wire, after having warned everybody likely to misinterpret our proceedings. What matter that a Turkish aeroplane sailed high above one, its course marked by the white puffs of our bursting shrapnel. Ten braces were brought down in 15 hours, and the mess provided with a welcome addition to its usual menu.

Another move to a scene of greater "liveliness" at a hive of dug-outs made in the sides of various walls, where amidst the dust of their beds, kicked up by passing traffic, setting off all and sundry, we realised the old, old truth:—"Beatus ille qui procul negotio," etc.

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From 9th to 15th January, 1918

HIGH WATER		LOW WATER		
Day of Week	H'kong Mean Time	Height	H'kong Mean Time	
Day of Month	Height	Day of Month	Height	
Wed.	9 7 10	3 7	1 15	2
Thurs.	10 6 59	3 8	1 16	3
Fri.	11 6 57	3 8	1 19	1
Satur.	12 6 54	3 8	1 23	3
Sun.	13 6 49	7 9	0 33	3
Mon.	14 6 40	4 1	0 33	0
Tue.	15 6 27	4 2	1 26	3
Wed.	16 6 12	4 1	1 26	0
Thurs.	17 6 15	4 4	2 29	2
Fri.	18 6 10	4 3	4 23	0
Satur.	19 6 4	4 2	3 30	2
Sun.	20 5 51	4 4	4 11	0
Mon.	21 6 54	7 9	4 13	2

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SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
SWATOW and SINGAPORE	"TAMING"	On 8th Jan., 4 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"SHANTUNG"	On 10th Jan., 3 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"YINGCHOW"	On 12th Jan., 3 P.M.
SHANGHAI	"SUIYANG"	On 16th Jan., 3 P.M.

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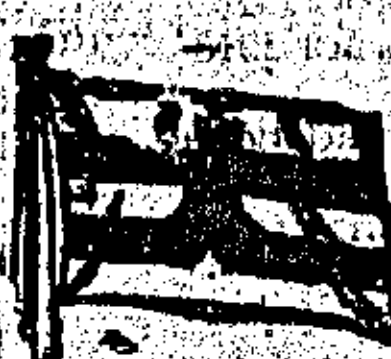
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